COLUBER RUSSELII.

Character Genericus.

Scuta abdominalia.
Squamæ ſubcaudales.

Lin. Syſt. Nat. p. 275.

Character Specificus.

COLUBER fuſco-flaveſcens, maculis dorſalibus ovato-acuminatis nigricantibus albo marginatis, lateralibus minoribus ovatis.

Scuta abdominalia 168. *Squamæ ſubcaudales* 59.

Longus eſt quaſi quatuor pedes ſerpens quem deſcribere in animo eſt. Capitis largiuſculi pars ſuperior ſquamis parvulis contegitur. Naſus obtuſus. Rictus oris amplus. Tela magna, et (quod variis ſerpentibus venenatis contingit), duplicia; minus nempe in utraque maxilla adjacet majori. Color eleganter fuſco-flaveſcit, ducta per totam dorſi longitudinem macularum fuſcarum, rhombiformium, ſeu potius ovatarum ſerie continua, quarum medium pallet, margines albent; quæque aliquibus in locis confluunt, ut cernere eſt in tabula. Utrinque in lateribus ſitæ ſunt maculæ ovatæ, fuſcæ, minores iis

quæ

quæ in tergo ſunt; et præterea tranſverſim ſparguntur aliæ vel his minores. Corpus inferius albet, ſcutorum ſeu lamellarum multarum marginibus notas aliquot fuſcas habentibus.

Speciem hanc primus deſcripſit Dominus Ruſſelius, libri auctor de Serpentibus Indicis, quique ſpecimine quod depinximus Muſeum Britannicum ditavit. Narrat Ruſſelius in India non rarius reperiri hunc ſerpentem quam ipſe *Coluber Naja*; eique vix et ne vix cedere telo venenato: ſuis enim experimentis probavit vir doctus, horæ momento poſt morſum tricies et ſex elapſo, interiiſſe pullos gallinaceos; ipſum autem canem, exacto fere ſemihoræ ſpatio.

R.N

THE

RUSSELIAN SNAKE.

Generic Character.

Tranſverſe *Lamellæ* under the abdomen.
Broad alternate *Scales* under the tail.

Specific Character, &c.

Browniſh-yellow SNAKE, with acutely-ovate blackiſh dorſal ſpots edged with white, and ſmaller ovate lateral ones.

Abdominal lamellæ 168. *Subcaudal ſcales* 59.

Katuka Rekula Poda.
Ruſſel's Indian Serpents. p. 10. *pl.* 7.

The length of this remarkable ſnake is about four feet: the head is rather large, and covered on its upper part with ſmall ſcales: the ſnout obtuſe: the mouth wide: the fangs large, and, (as in ſeveral other poiſonous ſerpents), double; a ſmaller fang being ſituated cloſe to the larger one on each ſide. The color of the animal is an elegant pale yellowiſh brown, marked throughout the whole length of the back with a continued chain or ſeries of large rhomboid, or rather oval ſpots of deep brown, with pa-
ler

ler middles, and narrow white edges: in ſome parts theſe ſpots are nearly confluent, as ſhewn in the figure: on each ſide of the body is a row of brown oval ſpots, ſmaller than thoſe on the back; and beſides theſe a few ſtill ſmaller tranſverſe marks are ſcattered here and there on the ſides: the under part of the body is white, with a few duſky ſpots.

This ſpecies appears to have been firſt deſcribed by Dr. Patrick Ruſſel, who preſented the elegant ſpecimen here figured to the Britiſh Muſeum. Dr. Ruſſel, in his work on Indian Serpents, informs us that it is ſcarce leſs common in India than the Coluber Naja or Cobra de Capello; and that its poiſon is nearly as deleterious. Its bite, according to Dr. Ruſſel's experiments, proved fatal to chickens in thirty-ſix ſeconds, and to a dog in twenty-ſix minutes.